

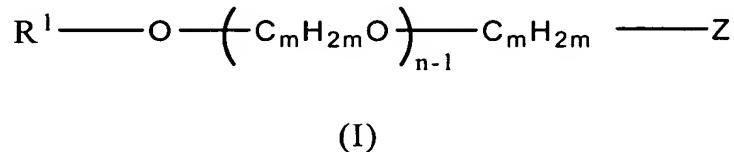
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the International application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) The use of block copolymers which were prepared by polymerization of a poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) with at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound (B), as dispersants and/or superplasticizers for aqueous suspensions of solids, the suspension of solids containing hydraulic binders based on cement, lime, gypsum and anhydrite.

2. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the block copolymers were prepared by reacting a poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) of the general formula (I)

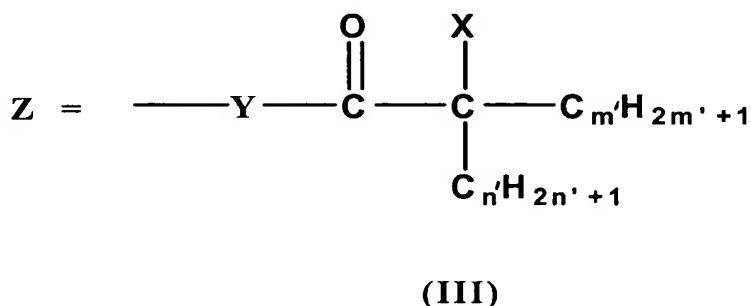


in which

$R^1$  = hydrogen, a  $C_1$ – $C_{20}$ -alkyl radical, a cycloaliphatic  $C_5$ – $C_{12}$ -cycloalkyl radical, an optionally substituted  $C_6$ – $C_{14}$ -aryl radical;

$m$  = 2 to 4;

$n$  = 1 to 250;



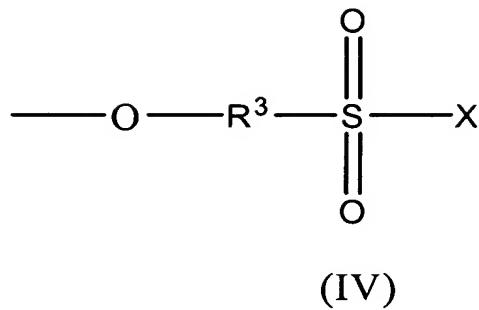
where  $Y$  = O or  $NR^2$

$R^2$  = H, a  $C_1$ – $C_{12}$ -alkyl radical, a  $C_6$ – $C_{14}$ -aryl radical,

$X$  = Cl, Br

$m'$  = 1 to 4

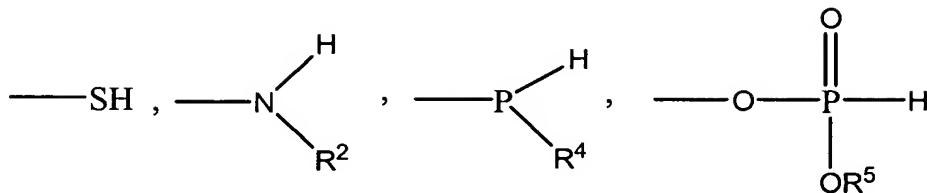
$n'$  = 0 to 2,



where

$\text{R}^3$  = an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_6$ – $\text{C}_{14}$ -arylene radical

$\text{X}$  = Cl, Br



(V)

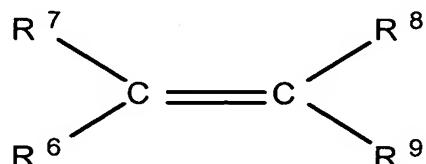
in which

$\text{R}^4$  is H, a  $\text{C}_1$ – $\text{C}_{12}$  alkyl radical, a  $\text{C}_5$ – $\text{C}_8$ -cycloalkyl radical, a  $\text{C}_6$ – $\text{C}_{14}$ -aryl radical, optionally substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups, and

$\text{R}^5$  is  $\text{C}_1$ – $\text{C}_{12}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_6$ – $\text{C}_{14}$ -aryl, and

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{m}$  and  $\text{n}$  have the abovementioned meaning,

with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound (B) capable of free radical polymerization and of the general formula (II)



(II)

in which

$R^6$  and  $R^7$  may be H,  $CH_3$ , COOH or salts thereof,  $COOR^{10}$ ,  $CONR^{10}R^{10}$

$R^6$  and  $R^9$  together may be O-CO-O

$R^8$  may be H,  $CH_3$  or  $-CH_2-COOR^{10}$

$R^9$  may be  $COOR^{10}$ , an optionally substituted  $C_6-C_{14}$ -aryl radical or  $OR^{11}$

$R^{10}$  may be H,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -alkyl,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -hydroxyalkyl,

$R^{11}$  may be acetyl, and

$R^1$ , m and n have the abovementioned meaning.

3. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, wherein the reaction of the poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) with the monomer component (B) was carried out in the form of a free radical polymerization.

4. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the reaction was effected in the form of an "atom transfer radical polymerization" (ATRP).

5. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that claim 2, wherein the aryl radicals for  $R^1$  are also substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl and sulfo groups.

6. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that claim 2, wherein in formula (I), m is 2 or 3 and n is 5 to 250.

7. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that claim 2, wherein that  $R^2$  is hydrogen or  $C_1-C_2$ -alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that claim 2, wherein m' is 1 and n' is 0 or 1.

9. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that claim 2, wherein the arylene radical  $R^3$  also has halo, hydroxyl,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -alkoxy,  $C_1-C_{12}$ -dialkylamino or carboxyl groups.

10. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that claim 2, wherein~~  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^6$  and  $R^9$  together are O-CO-O,  $R^8$  is H,  $CH_3$  or  $CH_2COOR^{10}$  and  $R^9$  is  $COOR^{10}$ , or is a phenyl radical optionally substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or sulfo groups.

11. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that claim 10, wherein~~  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^8 = H$  or  $CH_3$  and  $R^9 = COOR^{10}$ .

12. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that claim 11, wherein~~  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are H,  $R^8 = H$  or  $CH_3$  and  $R^9$  is COOH or salts thereof or  $COOR^{12}$  and, where  $R^{12}$  is tert-butyl or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -hydroxyalkyl.

13. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that claim 2, wherein~~ the reaction of the poly (alkylene oxide) compound (A) and the monomer compound (B) was carried out in the presence of a inimer compound.

14. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the inimer compounds used are those which were prepared by esterification of hydroxy-functionalized monomers, such as, for example hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), with ATRP initiators, such as, for example, halopropionic acids.

15. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the inimer compounds used ~~were those which were~~ was obtained by sulfochlorination of styrene.

16. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the reaction was effected in the temperature range from 20 to 110°C.

17. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the block copolymers are used in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the suspension of solids.

18. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that claim 17, wherein~~ the suspension of solids contains inorganic particles selected from the group consisting of crushed rock, silicate powder, chalk, clays, porcelain slip, talc, pigments and carbon black.

19. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that claim 17, wherein~~ the suspension of solids contains organic particles, such as, for example, plastics powder.